

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00463 130846Z

16

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CPR-01 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 SS-15 PRS-01 /034 W

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O 130830Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2288

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

1. MARONITE PATRIARCH MEOUCHI DIED SATURDAY JAN 11. DCM AND I CALLED YESTERDAY AT PATRIARCHATE AT BKERKE TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES. AT THAT TIME PATRIARCHAL SEC GEN INFORMED US THAT NOTIFICATION OF DEATH HAD BEEN TELEGRAPHED TO WHITE HOUSE 0200 LOCAL SUNDAY, JANUARY 12.

2. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, PATRIARCH MEOUCHI, DEARLY BELOVED AND RESPECTED IN LEBANON, RESIDED IN STATES FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME HE BECAME AMERICAN CITIZEN, WHICH CITIZENSHIP HE RETAINED FOR 14 YEARS AND RENOUNCED IT ONLY WHEN HE BECAME PATRIARCH OF ALL MARONITES. PRESS CARRIES PHOTOGRAPHS OF PATRIARCH BEING RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND WHEN I CALLED ON HIM SHORTLY AFTER MY ARRIVAL, MEOUCHI REFERRED AT SOME LENGTH TO HIS VISIT WITH JOHNSON. DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO RECALL THAT THERE IS AN AMERICAN MARONITE BISHOP REPRESENTING AMERICAN MARONITE COUMMUNITY, WHO WE UNDERSTAND IS ENROUTE BEIRUT TO ATTEND FUNERAL TUESDAY, JANUARY 14 AND WILL REMAIN HERE AS MEMBER OF SYNOD WHICH WILL ELECT NEW PATRIARCH WITHIN APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS.

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2. IN VIEW FOREGOING, RECOMMEND EITHER THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY SEND CONDOLENCES. IF PRESIDENT WERE TO DO SO THEY WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE ADDRESSED TO MARONITE PRESIDENT FRANGIE, OR IF SECRETARY, TO FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA. EITHER ACTION WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY LEBANESE, BOTH MARONITE AND NON-MARONITE.

3. EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE RECALLS THAT AT TIME OF DEATH OF MEOUCHI'S PREDECESSOR, HIGH LEVEL MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE WAS SENT. HE DOES NOT RECALL WHETHER IT CAME FROM THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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